

that "this man Zola" made him feel "quite ill." If, however, there was some hissing at the first performance of "The'rese Raquin," there was also some applause, and when the curtain fell the question of success or failure seemed still to be hanging in the balance. But the professional critics agreed to slate the play, and moreover the "dog-days" were just beginning, the heat emptying those theatres which had hitherto drawn large audiences, in such wise that after nine performances La Renaissance closed its doors for the summer vacation, and "The'rese Raquin," as a play, was heard of no more.

Zola consoled himself with the comparative success of his novel, "Le Ventre de Paris,"<sup>1</sup> which reached a second edition deservedly, for its kaleidoscopic pictures of the Paris markets .. were the best descriptive work that the author had as yet penned. Nevertheless, the book encountered some severe criticism at the hands of the few reviewers who condescended to notice it. "Writers devoid of any Eabelaisian sense denounced it as the apotheosis of gluttony; the transference of a pork-butcher's shop to literature was regarded as outrageous; and a certain "symphony of cheeses" gave one critic such a fit of nausea, that an unsuspecting foreigner reading his remarks might have imagined

cheese to be an  
abomination to the delicately constituted  
Parisians, whereas,  
in fact, they then consumed—and still consume  
to-day—a  
greater amount and a greater variety of  
cheese, often with

<sup>1</sup> "Le Yentre de Paris," Paris, Gharpentier, 1873, 2  
editions, 18mo, 362  
pages; 3d edition, 1876, 18mo, 358 pages. From this point  
all the volumes  
of the ordinary edition of "Les Rougon-Macquart" were  
priced at 3 francs 50  
centimes. The forty-seventh thousand of "Le Yentre de  
Paris" (Charpen-  
tier edition) was on sale in 1903. There is also an edition  
illustrated with  
wood engravings, Paris, Flammarion, n. d. large 8vo.